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BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

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Peter J. Sullivan
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

Health & Human Services Minutes

March 26, 2019

Present: Bishop Nancy Rosario, Hannah Acampora, Bob Bieder, Lauren Council, Terence Franklin

Absent: Mary Jane Musano, Debbie Hunt, Tom Smith, Alvin Ponder

Observers: P. Arnand, R. Fentener van Vlissinger, V. Herbert, S. Colon, E. Downing, M. Alcantara

Meeting opened at 7:05 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

1: Vernon Herbert – NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene made a presentation regarding the West Nile Virus prevention and mosquito spraying. The West Nile Virus was discovered in 1937 in Uganda. In 1999 there was an encephalitis outbreak in Queens. CDC did test and discovered West Nile Virus in the U.S. None one knows how it entered the US. It was found in the abandoned Flushing Airport area, and it has touched every city in the U.S. Symptoms are mild headaches, swollen lymph nodes, it affects elders and young children. You can live a normal life, but for some it creates a compromised immune system and can result in death. In the Bronx we've had four human cases, in CB 10 only one case reported.

There are 61 traps in the five boros, 9 permanent traps in the Bronx. CB10 had 3 permanent traps. If an area tests positive a supplemental trap is set up to see the travel length of the mosquito, its flight can range up to 5 miles. If a positive pool is found on the first supplemental trap, it is tested again; if its positive a 2nd time, it increases the criteria for coming out at night with NYPD. A positive pool area is called a "Hot Spot", then a licensed exterminator is sent to apply pesticides.

The Bronx had more than 18,000 catch basins – there is a contract with DEP and outside vendors that treat the catch basins 3x during mosquito season.

The Bronx last year received 311 – calls to 311 regarding mosquito complaints, CB10 – received 70 – 311 calls; the five boros received under 3000.

Summonses are issued for standing water to property owners. Rain barrels are to be kept covered. Fines range from \$300 to \$1000.

Ferry Point gets a lot of ground application, areas like Pelham Pkwy, Co-op City, Ferry Point, abandoned railroads are always on surveillance and get routine site visits

2: Next presentation was by Roger Fentener van Vlissinger regarding Plant Based Nutrition Program. He distributed information (see attached) on plant based nutrition and gave various testimonies- including himself who went from 230 lbs. to 170 lbs. within 9 months. Also, Brooklyn BP Eric Adams was diagnosed with severe diabetes and was told he would go blind. He switched to Plant Based nutrition, lost over 70 lbs. and is in a healthy condition – all within 3 mos. The same for Council Member Fernando Cabrera. He informed that Dr. Robert Osfeld from Montefiore Moses give a monthly wellness class on the 4th Tuesday and has a Cardiac Wellness Program every Friday at 1200 Waters Place.

The Wellness Plant Based Meal Prep Group meet at St. Helena's School Cafeteria once a month. Also, on the 4th Tuesday, there is a prepaid pre-fix Plant Based Meal a 9 pm at the Neerob Restaurant a 2096 Starling Ave. Must RSVP through EventBrite. To find plant-based doctors you can log onto www.plantbaseddocs.com. See attached for additional information.

3: Next Marisol Alcantara and Patricia Armand from NYSNA (New York State Nurses Association) spoke on the nurse-patient ratio. Reference was made to Montefiore Moses on Gun Hill Rd. They were informed how CB10 has been active in the situation of hallway beds and overcrowded ED facilities.

FLOOR RESOLUTIONS

Motions: Bob Bieder, seconded by Lauren Council to send a support letter to all State Senate and Assembly members in CB #10 requesting legislation to enforce safe staffing ratios and the elimination of hallway beds.

4: Healthy Lifestyle Walk is scheduled for Sat. June 1, 2019, and will be combined with Co-op City Fair in the greenway. The walk will begin at 10 am and the Fair begins at 12 noon.

Mr. Franklin relayed his recent experience at the Westchester Square Montefiore Emergency Room as a positive one. Bishop Nancy relayed her experience at Weiler/Einstein as positive as well.

Committee Chair and Co-Chair elections were unanimous: Bishop Nancy Rosario and Deb Hunt re-elected

Motion to adjourn: Bob Bieder, seconded by Terence Franklin. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.